

Graham/Summer 2009
AP US Government
Summer Assignment

Welcome to Advanced Placement US Government. I am looking forward to the 2009-2010 school. A full course syllabus will be offered the first week of school. I may be contacted over the summer at drbkgraham@msn.com. This (summer) assignment is available on-line at the KHS website and, in hard copy format on my door, room 821 at KHS.

AP Government requires different thinking and writing skills than you used in U.S. History. Writing for government requires the understanding and analysis of abstract concepts and principles. You will depend less on recitation of facts than on your interpretation of the facts. You need to have a basic understanding of governmental functions and from that, application of broad applications of concepts and ideas. Each week, I will assign a "TWIG" which is an acronym for "This Week in Government." The TWIG will address material covered in that week's class and, will mirror questions on the AP Government exam. To that end, I developed a summer assignment, which models a TWIG assignment.

Assignment: Read the attached article by H.T. Reynolds, which discusses C. Wright Mills treatise on "The Power Elite." Amazingly, Mills wrote this book in 1956. However, the argument is extremely suggestive of today's US political structure. Mills suggests that power in this country does not rest solely in the hands of the people, but in an elite triad of governing elitists.

After reading the article, answer each of the following questions in clear and concise statements. Also, answer the final essay question. Be prepared to discuss this assignment during the first week of school in September. Have a good summer!

Dr. G

1. Who according to Mills is the [power elite](#)?
2. According to Mills, in which ways is the [power elite](#) NOT part of a conspiracy that threatens democratic principles?
3. How does (Dye) portray the average voter and their input into the political system? What position do they occupy?
4. Which elements unite the [power elite](#)?
5. What role does the corporate world play in shaping the [power elite](#) and their view(s)?

Essay: (suggested length one to two pages, typed, double space)

How has the power elite contributed to the demise of grass-roots democracy and citizen participation in governmental affairs? Has the public become locked out of governmental policy making? What role does voter apathy play in the formation of policy and law by the [power elite](#)?